

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 12-15 and 18-20 are pending and under consideration in the present application; Claims 9, 12, 15 and 18 having been amended; and Claims 10, 11, 16 and 17 having been cancelled by way of the present amendment. No new matter is introduced.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the drawings and rejected claims 1, 9-11, 13-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by **Boss** (US 4,855,882), and claims 2-8, 12 and 18 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based on **Boss** (US 4,855,882) in view of **Komai** (US 6,017,241).

Re the objection to the drawings, the specification has been amended to refer to the holes as element **660** throughout. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 9-11, 13-17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by **Boss** (US 4,855,882). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action identifies element **58** (the transparent cover strip) in **Boss** as the claimed “first body part”. However, there are no holes shown in the transparent cover strip **58**, hence **Boss** fails to teach “apertures formed *in said first body part* in a direction orthogonal to said insulated conductors” (*emphasis added*) as claimed in Claim 1 of the present application. The Office Action identifies bores **40** of **Boss** as the claimed apertures, but bores **40** are in base plate **32**, and base plate **32** is not configured to “resiliently mate” with any of the other parts. Hence, even if base plate **32** were taken as being the claimed “first body part”, then **Boss** would

simply fail to teach “a second body part configured to resiliently mate with said first body part” instead of failing to teach “apertures formed in said first body part”.

In short, no matter which element in **Boss** is taken to be which element in the present Claim 1, not all the limitations of the claim can be met. This is because the structure of **Boss** differs from that of the present invention, i.e. **Boss** has two elements that are configured to be resiliently mated (transparent cover strip **58** and base channel member **20**) but has apertures formed in a third element (base plate **32**). For at least this reason, Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitation “said connectors each comprising first and second body parts configured to be resiliently fastened together; said first body part provided with apertures in a direction orthogonal to said pair of insulated conductors to receive a pair of contacts”, and Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitation “resiliently fastening together said first and said second body parts of said connectors, providing in each said first body part an aperture in a direction orthogonal to each of said pair of insulated conductors to receive an electrical contact”. Accordingly, Claims 9 and 15 as amended are allowable for at least the same reason as Claim 1 is allowable. The remaining claims are dependent from Claims 1, 9 and 15, are therefore also allowable.


Claims 2-8, 12 and 18 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based on **Boss** (US 4,855,882) in view of **Komai** (US 6,017,241). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2-8 are dependent upon Claim 1, Claim 12 is dependent upon Claim 9 and Claim 18 is dependent upon Claim 15. As the independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, Claims 2-8, 12 and 18 are therefore also allowable.

Consequently, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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